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**From:** Ellison, Rosanne [Ellison.Rosanne@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 6/1/2022 2:31:32 PM  
**To:** Johnston, Jeff (EGLE) [JohnstonJ14@michigan.gov]; Foose, Melanie (DNR) [foosem@michigan.gov]  
**CC:** Falkner, Amber [Falkner.Amber@epa.gov]; Cieniawski, Scott [cieniawski.scott@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Detroit News request, contaminated sediment

Hi Jeff,

I did forward our email exchange with Eileen so she should be up to date. Also, Carol did contact Eileen and we may be doing the interview today or tomorrow. If that is the case I'll let you guys know how it went and what we said.

Rose Ellison  
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**From:** Johnston, Jeff (EGLE) <JohnstonJ14@michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 10:14 AM  
**To:** Ellison, Rosanne <Ellison.Rosanne@epa.gov>; Foose, Melanie (DNR) <foosem@michigan.gov>  
**Cc:** Falkner, Amber <Falkner.Amber@epa.gov>; Cieniawski, Scott <cieniawski.scott@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Detroit News request, contaminated sediment

Hi, everyone – Rose, I'm fine with omitting "orphan," and good eye on the seeming contradiction about the federal match. Since Carol is reaching out to Eileen Deamer, I'll connect with Eileen to sort out EGLE's role in this query. Melanie, since Carol doesn't seem to be breathing down our necks on this, let's take our time and hold off on responding to her for now. Thanks, -Jeff

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**From:** Ellison, Rosanne <[Ellison.Rosanne@epa.gov](mailto:Ellison.Rosanne@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 4:55 PM  
**To:** Foose, Melanie (EGLE) <[FOOSEM@michigan.gov](mailto:FOOSEM@michigan.gov)>  
**Cc:** Johnston, Jeff (EGLE) <[JohnstonJ14@michigan.gov](mailto:JohnstonJ14@michigan.gov)>; Falkner, Amber <[Falkner.Amber@epa.gov](mailto:Falkner.Amber@epa.gov)>; Cieniawski, Scott <[cieniawski.scott@epa.gov](mailto:cieniawski.scott@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Detroit News request, contaminated sediment

<b>CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to <a href="mailto:abuse@michigan.gov">abuse@michigan.gov</a></b>
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Hi,

I was contacted by Carol at the Detroit News and directed her to contact Eileen Deamer at EPA if she wanted to set up an interview. Carol said she would contact Eileen.

All of the points below are fine, but bullets 6 and 7 seem to be contradictory. Also, might want to be careful about using the term "orphan sites" in bullet 8. A case could be made that all of the sites are orphan sites (as BASF and a lot of other companies like to argue). Suggest just omitting the word "orphan" because while a meaningful term to us it may illicit some unknow distinction to the public that we would then have to deal with.

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**From:** Foose, Melanie (EGLE) <[FOOSEM@michigan.gov](mailto:FOOSEM@michigan.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 4:05 PM  
**To:** Ellison, Rosanne <[Ellison.Rosanne@epa.gov](mailto:Ellison.Rosanne@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Detroit News request, contaminated sediment

Making sure you get this, Rose. Jeff said he got it back.

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**From:** Johnston, Jeff (EGLE) <[johnstonj14@michigan.gov](mailto:johnstonj14@michigan.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:50 PM  
**To:** [EllisonRosanne@epa.gov](mailto:EllisonRosanne@epa.gov); [Falkner.Amber@epa.gov](mailto:Falkner.Amber@epa.gov)  
**Cc:** Foose, Melanie (EGLE) <[FOOSEM@michigan.gov](mailto:FOOSEM@michigan.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Detroit News request, contaminated sediment

Hi, Rose and Amber – Melanie Foose (cc'd) suggested I reach out to you regarding a query from Detroit News reporter Carol Thompson about sediment cleanup in the Detroit/Rouge Rivers AOC. We're proposing that Melanie, Sam Noffke and Rose offer to interview with Thompson, guided by the following talking points. I want to make sure EPA's communications staff is comfortable with that plan. Please let me know, or share any questions, concerns, or proposed changes to the talking points. Thank you! -Jeff

Talking points:

- Detroit River cleanup is a longstanding priority: The very first contaminated sediment remediation project under the federal Great Lakes Legacy Act was carried out in the Detroit River (the Black Lagoon project) in 2005-06 with Michigan providing the nonfederal share from our Clean Michigan Initiative bond funding.
- The Detroit River is a vital and iconic Michigan waterway, and the state has worked for more than a decade now to move its cleanup forward in a methodical way. We have teamed with the U.S. EPA to characterize the entire shoreline, organize sampling data, determine the nature and amounts of chemical contaminants, and identify projects and remediation partners. EGLE is an important partner with EPA in this process that needs to take place before remediation can take place.
- Remediation can mean removal of sediments or covering and capping contaminated deposits. The amount of contamination in the Detroit River Area of Concern is much larger than at any other Michigan AOC, and thus the scope and duration of the project are correspondingly greater.
- The Legislature, working with the Whitmer Administration, has allocated \$1.9 billion for water infrastructure in the current budget, along with tens of millions of dollars for cleanup of contaminated sites. This funding, which EGLE greatly appreciates, reflects the scope of needs throughout Michigan. In directing these resources, EGLE must consider the breadth of needs, the greatest risks to the health of Michigan residents, and the processes and partners involved in remediation.
- EPA allocated \$2.9 million in grant money to EGLE's Water Resources Division for remedial sediment investigations within the Detroit/Rouge River AOC. Specifically, the money supports the Lower Rouge River remedial investigation and the Trenton Channel/Grosse Ile Shoreline remedial investigation. Contractors conducted sampling last fall from which data on both projects is expected soon, likely this summer. Results from these investigations will lead to future Feasibility Studies if deemed necessary, under EPA's lead.

- EGLE will conduct two additional remedial investigation sites within the Detroit River proposed for this fall: the Harbortown Upstream area (upstream of the MacArthur Bridge) and the Riverside Park area (immediately downstream of the Ambassador Bridge). These additional remedial investigations are funded at 100% EPA grant: No cost share is required for characterization and investigation of sediments under the Great Lakes Legacy Act.
- The recent influx of federal funding doesn't help Michigan in this situation because federal funding can't be used to provide nonfederal match under the Great lakes Legacy Act.
- As EGLE continues to work with EPA on defining the remedial needs for the Detroit River, we will continue to look at ways we can partner with EPA to address orphan sites identified within the AOC.
- In the Detroit AOC, sediment remediation is probably the biggest need, as it will lead to ecological recovery of fish and wildlife (cleaner fish for human consumption, bald eagles with lower contaminant levels and healthier young, fewer tumors in fish, etc. – all identified Beneficial Use Impairments or problems in the river). Millions of dollars has been spent on habitat restoration throughout the river over the last few years. All this work is leading up to eventual delisting of the Detroit River as an AOC, a goal for which we have a plan in place to meet, no small feat considering the legacy of industry over two centuries.
- Detroit River restoration work is underway and ongoing. It has proceeded for years in a deliberate way and will continue to do so.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks, -Jeff